WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Audio-visual animation agreement with Canada

†*561. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that with the audio-visual animation agreement with Canada there is possibility of business of more than 150 million dollar every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, together with the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) the details of the revenue earned by the country through the animation business as well as its export during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has received a proposal to enter into an Audio-Visual Co-production agreement with the Government of Canada, which is still at draft stage. While no specific numerical projections regarding business can be made at this point of time, there appears to be a possibility of significant potential benefits.

(c) Data regarding break-up of revenue earned by the entertainment industry is not maintained by this Ministry. However, according to industry sources, supported by the National Association of Software and Service Companies, India exported animation and related software worth approximately US$ 100 million during the year 2001-02.

Classical music programme by National Aids Control Organisation

†*566. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Shastriya Sangeet Karyakram per lut raha hai AIDS niyaantran kosh", which appeared in the Rashtriya Sahara, dated the 13th March, 2002;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred, so far, by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) towards sponsoring classical music programme on Doordarshan and for how long this programme is proposed to be sponsored; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.